

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 10, 2006, Applicants submit the following remarks.

A petition for a three (3) month extension of time for responding to the Official Action is herewith submitted.

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 have been withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and following remarks.

Objection to Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully note the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement on June 27, 2006, subsequent to the mailing of this Office Action dated May 10, 2006, thereby rendering the Examiner's objection to the Information Disclosure Statement moot.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting steps. Applicants have amended claims 5 and 6 to include the steps as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, on the ground that the specification fails to provide enablement for determining the susceptibility or effectiveness of viral strains containing drug-resistant mutations other than 386A. It is noted that the Examiner acknowledges that the specification provides enablement for "evaluating the effectiveness of a reverse transcriptase inhibitor for HIV strains with a mutation at position 386 to alanine in the reverse transcriptase region." Applicants have amended claims 5 and 6 to limit the detection of drug resistant mutations at position 386 in HIV reverse transcriptase. Accordingly, the rejection to claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 10, 2006
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